UNITED
NATIONS

S

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1998/686
24 July 1998

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 23 JULY 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF PORTUGAL TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to draw to your attention the Declaration of the II Conference of the Heads of State and Government of the Community of Portuguese-Speaking Countries, which was held in Praia on 16 and 17 July 1998.

I should be grateful if you could have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Antonio MONTEIRO
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Portugal
to the United Nations

98-21683 (E) 270798

/...

Annex

PRAIA DECLARATION

1. The Heads of State and Government of Angola, Brazil, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, Portugal and São Tomé and Principe met in Praia on 16 and 17 July 1998, having on that occasion elected His Excellency Antonio Mascarenhas Monteiro, President of the Republic of Cape Verde, as President of the Conference of Heads of State and Government of the CPLP for the next two years.

2. Since this was their first meeting following the Constitutive Summit of the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries, they attributed particular attention to a set of measures of consolidation and progressive affirmation of the CPLP.

   To that end, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and of External Relations signed, in their presence, the following agreements:

   - General Agreement on Cooperation
   - Agreement of Cooperation between Higher Education Establishments
   - Modifying Protocol of the Orthographic Agreement of the Portuguese Language

3. Conscious of the fact that education is an essential factor in the development of Member States and in the improvement of the economic well-being and quality of life of our peoples, they adopted the "Statement of the Heads of State and Government of the CPLP on Education", in which they underlined the need to concentrate efforts on valuing human resources and committed themselves to undertaking a set of measures aimed at deepening community cooperation in the field of education.

   In this framework, they adopted a resolution encouraging the elaboration of principles of pedagogic orientation that would accompany programmes in the subjects of History and Literature in the *curricula* of the educational systems of the Member Countries of the CPLP, in order to promote a deeper understanding of the History and Literature of the respective peoples.

4. They took note of the approval and signature by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and of External Relations of the review of the Statutes of the International Institute of the Portuguese Language (IILP) and laid the first stone of its Headquarters.

5. They took note, with satisfaction, of the efforts of the Executive Secretary and the Members of the Permanent Committee for Coordination, as well as its recommendations, towards harmonizing the original draft of the

Rules for the Special Fund and adapting it to current international standards.

6. They recognized the convenience of the Special Fund being able to receive additional contributions from international bodies and entities from the private sector and from civil society in general, as well as that those resources be channeled to development aid projects.

They agreed with the suggestion to allow a period of no longer than six months for the elaboration of the draft of the Rules of the Fund, by specialists, with a view to its approval by the next Council of Ministers of the CPLP.

7. They took good note of the Cape Verde Law that approves the Statute of the Lusophone Citizen that confers in Cape Verde special rights to citizens from Portuguese-speaking Countries.

The also took note of the organization in Portugal, next year, of an international colloquium to debate the question of lusophone citizenship, based on the analysis of the rights of the lusophone citizens of the CPLP countries.

In this context, they approved a resolution that recommends, to the next meeting of the Ministers Responsible for Security of the Member Countries of the CPLP, a profound analysis with a view to adopting measures that would facilitate the circulation of people in the CPLP space and requests that sectoral Meeting to submit a report, as detailed as possible, to the next Meeting of the Council of Ministers of the CPLP, containing recommendations in that regard.

8. They registered with satisfaction the wide participation by the civil society of Member Countries, reflected in the initiatives of sectors such as business, labour unions, women's organizations, legal professionals, writers and cultural figures, youth, cooperatives and others.

9. They took note of the sectoral meetings at ministerial level, the conclusions and recommendations of which constitute important defining elements for policies in the many fields of activity of the CPLP and encouraged the Ministers responsible for Agriculture, Postal Systems and Telecommunications, the Environment, Security, Justice, Public Administration, Education, Fisheries, Cooperation, Tourism, Health, Defence and Statistics, among others, to implement the decisions of those meetings, using, in cooperation with the Executive Secretary, all available mechanisms.

Similarly, they took note of the conclusions of the Statistics Conference of the CPLP and recommended the elaboration of an action plan in this area.

10. They adopted a resolution that establishes the Status of Observer to the CPLP and defines the procedures for their admission.

11. They considered the report of the Executive Secretary of the CPLP on the activities undertaken in the period 1996-1998, having registered with appreciation the gains achieved in the areas of internal structuring and operation of the Executive Secretariat.

They registered with appreciation the activity of the Executive Secretary in the affirmation of the CPLP at the international level, namely through the contacts and Agreements established with international organizations of the United Nations system and its specialized agencies and encouraged him to continue and deepen those relations.

12. They took note of the decisions of the Council of Ministers regarding the Action Programmes of the Executive Secretary and the budget for the economic year 1998-1999.

13. During an exchange of views on the situation internationally and in Member Countries, the Heads of State and Government:

- Condemned unequivocally the military rebellion in Guinea-Bissau and called for the reestablishment of democratic constitutional order in the country and support for the diplomatic initiatives for a peaceful and negotiated solution to the conflict;

- Agreed on the establishment of a Contact Group at the level of Ministers of Foreign Affairs and of External Relations with the aim of exploring the appropriate diplomatic means of bringing an end to the conflict. The Contact Group may coordinate with other initiatives of this type (bilateral, the OAU, the ECOWAS and the United Nations). The Contact Group will be constituted by the Republic of Cape Verde, which will be the coordinator, as President of the Council of Ministers of the CPLP, and by the Republic of Angola, the Federal Republic of Brazil, the Republic of Mozambique, the Portuguese Republic and the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe;

- Agreed on the commitment of the CPLP to support the reconstruction of the country, once the democratic constitutional framework has been restored;

- Reaffirmed their support for the initiative of good offices by Angola and Portugal;

- Launched an appeal to all countries and organizations to provide humanitarian assistance to displaced persons and refugees, requesting the cooperation of all parties involved with a view to facilitating the channeling and distribution of humanitarian assistance, as well as the opening of humanitarian corridors;

- Welcomed the essential role played by Portugal and Cape Verde in evacuating and sheltering all those who, irrespective of their nationality, opted to leave the country, as well as in providing humanitarian assistance to those most affected.

14. When considering the situation in Angola, the Heads of State and Government noted with appreciation the role of the United Nations with regard to the implementation of the Lusaka Protocol and, in this context, reiterated their profound sentiments of loss at the passing of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Maitre Alioune Blondin Beye, and of other nationals from other countries, namely of the CPLP, in the service of peace in Angola.

Concerned with the deterioration of the situation in the country, they deplored the intransigence of UNITA, evident in its not fully complying with the terms of the Lusaka Protocol, namely the extension of the State Administration to the entire territory of the country and the total demilitarization of its forces, persisting in carrying out armed actions against defenceless civilians, humanitarian assistance columns and staff in the service of NGO's and MONUA.

For this, they condemned the behaviour of UNITA and called for the scrupulous compliance with the relevant resolutions of the Security Council conducive to the start of a new era of peace and harmony.

15. The Heads of State and Government reaffirmed their tireless support for the right to self-determination of the people of East Timor and the determination to continue focussing efforts towards a just, comprehensive and internationally acceptable solution to the question of East Timor, in the full respect for the legitimate rights and aspirations of its people, in conformity with international law.

Registering with concern the persistent situation of the flagrant violation of human rights in that territory, they called for the strict observance of the relevant resolutions of the Commission on Human Rights and appealed for the immediate and unconditional release of Xanana Gusmao and the other political prisoners of East Timor.

They expressed hope that the recent political developments in Indonesia would contribute to a new attitude by the Indonesian authorities with regard to the problem of East Timor and reiterated their support for the efforts of the Secretary-General of the United Nations to relaunch the tripartite dialogue between Portugal, Indonesia and the United Nations, with the inclusion of representatives of the Timorese people.

They decided to carry out appropriate initiatives with a view to sending a fact finding mission of the CPLP to East Timor.

16. With a view to developing politico-diplomatic cooperation and solidarity between Member Countries in the international area, they reiterated their commitment to deepening coordination in the context of the United Nations and other international organizations, as well as the need for a more dynamic participation in those *fora*.

They welcomed the introduction of Portuguese as a working language in the meetings of the EU/ACP and decided to continue to carry out efforts towards creating the conditions for using Portuguese as an official language in other multilateral *fora*.

They registered with great satisfaction the initiative to convene in the year 2000 the Europe-Africa Summit, an event to which they attribute the greatest diplomatic importance for the future of the relations between the two continents.

From this perspective, they considered indispensable a preparation aimed at obtaining significant results, particularly with respect to the economic and social development of the African continent.

17. In saluting the holding of the World Exposition of Lisbon, EXPO 98, on the theme "The Oceans, a Heritage for the Future", they underlined the role the event is playing in bringing attention to and identifying measures for a correct management of marine resources and the conservation of the environment, since on this depends the future of humanity.

18. A delegation of East Timor participated in the meetings of the Council of Ministers and of the Conference of the Heads of State and Government of the CPLP, in the capacity of Guest Observer.

Corresponding to the request formulated, the Heads of State and Government decided to confer the status of Guest Observer to the CPLP on East Timor.

19. They elected for a new mandate of two years to the position of Executive Secretary, Dr Marcolino Moco, and to the position of Deputy Executive

Secretary, Dr Rafael Branco, to whom they expressed their confidence and firm support in the carrying out of their respective functions.

20. They accepted with pleasure the offer of the Republic of Mozambique to host the III Conference of the Heads of State and Government, scheduled for 2000, and welcomed, with satisfaction, the offer of the Republic of Angola to host the IV Meeting of the Council of Ministers in 1999.

They expressed to the authorities and people of Cape Verde their appreciation for the welcome and hospitality dispensed to all participants in the II Conference of the Heads of State and Government of the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries.

Praia, 17 July 1998